

Dontae  
Age 15  
07-20-09

In the duration of these two weeks, I have experienced a lot of new and interesting things. This has totally changed my mind on how I felt about the city government and more specifically the Mayor. I always thought that he was a good mayor but working with him and being able to sit in his meetings and everything helped me see how he works. He is eager to improve the community and tries to get whatever the community wants done as quickly as possible.

On Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, which was my second day here, I participated in my first fix-it in Bloomingdales. Alice and Justin Outreach and Services Specialists for Ward 5, were very patient with me explaining to me everything that was going on and why. It surprised me how eager and energetic everyone was to fix the community, we took pictures of everything.

Wednesday July 8<sup>th</sup>, Alice and Justin took me to the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) building to see what we had to do to get a gate put up around a vacate piece of land that was a heavy dumping site in Trinidad. When we didn't hear what we wanted to hear, we just went to the next office looking for answers. This was very interesting to me, we didn't stop searching for what we needed when we were turned down; we visited every office until we found what we needed.

Friday July 10<sup>th</sup>, though I was supposed to be off, I attended a meeting with the Mayor and the MOCRS. This was something I would never forget from my experience here this summer. Here is where I saw the business side of the Mayor that I have never seen. He showed me and the other interns how he functioned; no excuses get it done no

matter what. After the meeting I went on a walk through in Ward 5 with the Alice, Justin and the Mayor. I had a lot of fun there having the opportunity to have a conversation with the Mayor about nothing really. I enjoyed watching how he interacted with the community a lot; he invited everyone we walked by to join us.

Monday July 13<sup>th</sup>, I went on my second fix-it with Alice and Justin. This time I was a little more aware of what I had to do. We had some of the Mayor's Conservation Corps. (MCC) come out and help us. At this fix-it we cleaned out an over grown lot that had lots of trash and debris. After we were finished with our Fix-It we were double checking the fix-it area and we just happened to run across some people that were being evicted from a foreclosed house. We then got out our car and found out a little bit more about what was going on. Alice and Justin called everyone they could to try and get the elderly man food and shelter for the night.

Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup>, fellow interns Aja, Loren and I went on a Fix-It with Chris and Forest, Outreach Service Specialists for Ward 6. We cleaned up an over grown lot that had rat problems and we prepped the area for the Mayor's ribbon cutting at Hopkins in Ward 6. Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup>, Aja and I went back to the fix-it site and we called in some of the MCC to pass out flyers informing the community about an upcoming meeting talking about the Mayor building a new park. This time Chris let Aja and I do all of the speaking instructing the MCC on what to do. That was a new experience for me.

Thursday July 15<sup>th</sup>, Aja Loren and I went to the Mayor's ribbon cutting at Hopkins. It was very hot, but everyone came out to support the Mayor. We interns were relieved that it was finally over because we went back and forth to Hopkins surveying the new playground and it was finally completed. The Mayor as usual was eager to here

about what the people wanted next, I don't think many people know that the Mayor does this. I think the entire city should see this side of the Mayor it would help his campaign next year.

This job so far isn't what I thought it would be. I thought I was going to be in an office all day doing nothing but answering phones and typing flyers or something. I am glad to see that I am actually helping the community.